



Diversity and Inclusion Student Paper Award Proposal

Award Description

Together the Dean's Office and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the University of Chicago Divinity School will award one Masters-level and one Ph.D. student to receive the newly established Diversity and Inclusion Student Paper Award of \$500 to be administered by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This award is designed to recognize academic work by students of the institution that represents the diversity of thought or perspective. This could include research on such topics as gender, sexuality, race, disability, among others or it could include alternative methodologies like feminist ethnography.

The award will be based on the submission and selection of a seminar length paper or a portion of a larger work (15-25 pages) written anytime during the student's degree program. Upon receipt of the award, the winners will collectively present their work during the spring quarter. This award is limited to applicants currently enrolled in a program at the Divinity School. Students can only receive the award once during their course of study.

Submission process

For this academic year applicants should submit their writing sample by Monday, April 13, 2020. In addition to the paper itself, entries should include a one-page cover letter explaining how their writing fulfills the spirit of the award. Entries should be submitted to the Dean of Students Office via email at divinitydos@uchicago.edu. Awards will be announced by Friday, May 3, 2020.

Rational

The Dean's Office and the faculty, staff, and students on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee are endeavoring to listen and learn from students about what we can do to create the most meaningful impact on student experience. We take a multi-pronged approach and we feel that student input is critical to the success of diversity, inclusion, and equity measures at the Divinity School. This award proposal directly results from student input and requests that the Divinity School tangibly support their work and research on these topics. This award captures the spirit of our collective work in that it helps to stimulate new forms of academic knowledge around diversity, equity, and inclusion that often stand outside the disciplinary mainframe of the study of religion. More broadly, this award contributes to institutional efforts aimed at creating a culture which highlights and applauds, innovative and forward-looking student research at the Divinity School.

Outcomes

We envision several important pedagogical outcomes stemming from this award. It provides an incentive for students to innovate in their thinking and writing in ways that they might previously have been hesitant to explore. It also gives students more experience in presenting their research and, in doing so, helps create a Divinity School culture in which student research is more directly centered. We also understand this award as advancing the school's goal of promoting diversity and inclusion.